My Personal Philosophy of Technology in the Classroom

Incorporating technology in the classroom is crucial for the success of educating today’s youth and for preparing them for 21st century skills. Teachers must know how to integrate technology into the curriculum, and the resources need to be made available in every school. Students learn through active, hands-on experiences, and it is the responsibility of every teacher to make sure the diverse needs of each individual student in the classroom are being reached.

There are many purposes to education, but I believe every teacher should enter the classroom with the purpose to develop each child’s knowledge, skills, and character. Every teacher should want to make a difference in every student’s life, and should have the main goal of making sure every child succeeds. Teachers need to do this by keeping students engaged and interested in learning. Today, technology needs to be included in the engagement. I truly believe that teachers need to use the project-based learning approach, because it is a successful method of instruction and provides engaging learning opportunities and experiences. Project-based learning is a way students learn through inquiry-based projects, which maintains students’ interest, motivates them to learn, and improves their retention of learning. Through project-based learning, teachers are able to incorporate technology and develop 21st century skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. Students learn how to use technology as a tool through researching, gathering information, and completing projects. It is the students’ role to use what they have learned, and apply their skills and knowledge to real life situations. It is also the students’ role to participate, try their best, and use technology in the most beneficial ways suitable for each situation and project.

Teachers need to be aware of every student’s needs, abilities, and learning styles. Classrooms are full of diversity, and it is often challenging for a teacher to differentiate instruction appropriate for each individual student. This is why teachers need to use differentiated instruction incorporated with technology, which is a strategy based on the certainty that students learn in a variety of different ways. Differentiated instruction is brilliant, because it is student-centered, provides a variety of learning styles, and assesses that students are achieving. Every student learns differently, learns at a different pace, and is on a different level. Students learn more when teachers recognize each individual’s interests, readiness level, and profile. It is significant that teachers incorporate technology with differentiated learning through instructional and management approaches, such as including software, video streaming, and the web. As students learn with multimedia and technological components and teachers use strategies such as Webquest, I-Search, and R.A.F.T.T., students develop 21st century skills such as digital-age literacy, inventive thinking, effective communication, and high productivity.

Every child deserves a high-quality, 21st century education, even beginning at the early grade of kindergarten. This is why every school should set in stone an action plan which makes sure students are receiving the education they deserve despite their backgrounds, culture, state of living, or etc. Every child should be given the same learning opportunities, and it is the teacher, school, and community’s job to make sure the resources are being provided. Some things included in an action plan would be a guaranteed continuous use of technology tools and resources, available virtual learning opportunities for teachers, consistent assessments, connection and communication through technology with parents and the community, and more. Parents should always be aware of their child’s progress, and it the teacher’s responsibility to assess the achievements being made and to address the parents.

Every teacher needs to know how to efficiently incorporate technology in the classroom, which means every teacher should have hands-on training and professional development. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21’s) Professional Development Affiliate Program provides training organizations to offer schools and districts proficient training in how to incorporate technology and 21st century skills in the classroom. Every teacher should be open-minded to this training to help the success of their students. Also, schools must provide physical environments adaptable for 21st century instruction, including flexible schedules, facilities, and boundaries. School design improves education and achievement when more learning opportunities are being made possible. By renovating schools to incorporate technology and 21st century skills in the classroom, a teacher can truly impact every student's learning for the better.  I also believe with a strong connection between schools, communities, parents, and teachers, we can give our students essential tools and resources needed to help expand their learning opportunities and experiences required for the 21st century.